

Document - Martin Jaggle

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We first met Professor Martin Jaggle nine years ago in his dean's study at Vienna University's Faculty of Theology. The meeting was arranged through his PhD students, and its objective was to attempt to create a broad initiative within the Czech environment in which topics related to inclusion, values and spirituality within the schools environment could be debated. This very first meeting was extraordinary not just in the amount of time the professor gave over to our small group of mostly unfamiliar people who had no official authorisation and essentially had a mere vague idea of possible co-operation: we spent almost the whole day together and we experienced the professor's openness and friendly acceptance, as well as the way he listened with focus, accommodation and respect. This remained the case over all the subsequent years in which we had the opportunity to work together on projects, organising conferences and talks, and in particular during the many fascinating and inspiring discussions which were held in turn in Vienna and Brno.

We began thinking in an entirely new way about what is happening in schools, on the culture of recognition and how to treat differentness, competition in school, values, the significance of conflicts, spirituality in the school environment, sharing, rights, human dignity and everything which reduces it inside and outside school, and regarding many other things, Martin Jaggle showed us some extraordinary Austrian schools and institutions, and also taught us to "see" inside Czech schools and understand what takes place there and what it might mean for all actors.

We began to look more at the connections between school and politics, democratic schools, and the issue of architecture within schools and new roles and professions within the school environment opened up to us. Our joint Austrian-Czech path led us to mapping out, and also to recognising, what inclusion entails, and how it can be understood as a chance to transform schools and society in the 21st century. And Martin Jaggle influenced us all in these ideas in a thoughtful way as an exceptional person who demonstrates youth and a willingness to change and be open to new ideas.

The record of the document with Professor Martin Jaggle can be seen [here](#).



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